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PART II.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

Food Situation for the week ending 17th January 1920.

Brief abstract of the special reports regarding the Food Situation for the week ending 17th January 1920.

Bangalore City.—During the week under report 161 carts of ragi and 106 carts of paddy came into the bazaar as against 106 carts of ragi and 102 carts of paddy in the previous week.

The price of ragi ranged from Rs. 80 to Rs. 104 per cart during the week against Rs. 95 to Rs. 105 per cart in the previous week.

There is sufficient stock of rice and ragi in the bazaar but the prices are high.

The Municipal Depot is re-opened for sale of Burma rice and Delta rice at 5 and 4½ seers a rupee respectively.

Mysore City.—The Press Communique dated 9th January 1920 regarding the future policy of Government on the Food Situation has had some effect on the mercantile community. The price of paddy which was steadily on the increase before the publication of the Government Order is showing signs of decline the rate ranging from Rs. 19 to Rs. 22 per kandy according to quality.

Bangalore District.—There was no rain during the week.

Harvesting of paddy and horse gram and threshing of ragi are going on.

The price of ragi ranged from 6 to 8 seers and it touched 5½ seers at the Vadigenahalli Shandy owing to insufficiency of supply. Local rice sold at 3¼ to 3½ seers, while the price of Burma rice was 4 to 4½ seers.

The available stock of rice in the market is low and ragi is not coming out freely into the market. Agricultural labour which is remunerated in kind is not feeling the high price but other classes are complaining. As the latter are largely rice consumers, importation of Burma rice may ease the situation.

Mysore District.—Paddy is pouring into Mysore City in large quantities.

The crop of paddy has been splendid all along the banks of the rice and other places are well.

It is expected that prices of paddy will be easier shortly.

As regards horse gram, the price went down at once as soon as the restrictions were reimposed. There is no scarcity anywhere, but people are impatient at the high prices.

Tumkur District.—There is no material change in the situation. The price of ragi ranges from Rs. 95 to 100 a cart load, while that of paddy is between Rs. 65 to Rs. 70. Sale of Burma rice is being continued at Tumkur, Gubbi, Tiptur, and Turuvekere, Pavagada and Maddagiri; people want a depot to be opened there.

Kolar District.—The demand for Burma rice has been increasing everywhere. Prices have gone up. All the taluks that have exhausted their stocks require a fresh supply.

Hassan District.—The *santes* generally were fairly well supplied with food grains. It is reported that the supply of ragi at the last sante at Hassan was not sufficient.

Standing crops. *viz.*, togari, avare, paddy, sugar-cane are generally in a good condition but avare, togari and horse gram suffered in Hole-Narsipur and Hassan Taluks from late rains and cloudy weather. Paddy and ragi are being harvested.

Prices are still rising.

The prospects are generally good.

Shimoga District.—There is a noticeable change for the better in the prices of food-stuffs since the food depot in Shimoga was re-opened to the public for sale. The Amildar of Shimoga and the Deputy Amildar of Kumsi report that there is a slight relaxation in the high prices and that the markets are well supplied.

Kadur District.—The harvesting of paddy is nearing completion. Although new rice and ragi are coming into the market, the prices have not come down. Burma rice is being sold at 6 seers a rupee in the Koppa Depot and at 5 seers in Kadur and Tarikere. The Deputy Amildar of Narasimharajapur reports that as local rice is available abundantly there has been no demand for Burma rice in the Depot. The supply of food stuffs was sufficient in all the taluks.

The situation remains unchanged.

Chitaldrug District.—It is reported that merchants from Jagalur, Molakalmuru and Pavagada Taluks are making large purchases in the Challakere shandy perhaps with a view to surreptitiously export them to frontier British Provinces. The prices of food grains are still in the rise in spite of the favorable season and generally good harvest.

General (By Food Controller).—There has been no rain during the week in any part of the State. The markets are reported to be generally well supplied, but in the Hassan Taluk, it is said that the supply in the market was not equal to the demand. In the Mysore District, the Deputy Commissioner states that paddy is pouring into Mysore City in large quantities, but that a good deal of it is being exported and it is said that some of this is being exported surreptitiously by Railway without priority certificates. The price of paddy in the Bangalore City, ranged from Rs. 60 to Rs. 70, while in Tumkur Rs. 65 and Rs. 70. The flow of ragi into the Bangalore City Market has been more than in last week the increase being by about 50 per cent. The price however is very high and ranged from Rs. 80 to Rs. 104. In the Tumkur District, the price of ragi per cartload is reported to have been Rs. 95 to Rs. 100. The re-imposition of restrictions on horse gram has had a salutary effect and its price per palla has gone down by nearly Rs. 5.

The Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, has stated that the re-opening of the Food Depot there has had the effect of relaxing the prices of food stuffs to some extent. The President of the Mysore City Municipality observes that as a direct result of the Press Communique issued on 9th January 1920, the price of paddy is showing signs of decline. In the Chitaldrug District, the Deputy Commissioner has noticed merchants rushing in for purchases of large quantities of rice, ragi and jola in the Challakere, shandy and suspects that this is due to the high prices prevailing in the neighbouring British District of Bellary and the profiteering tendency of merchants trying to surreptitiously export the food grains.

In the Bangalore City the Municipal Depot has been re-opened for sale of rice in retail to the poor and is working satisfactorily.

The Director of Civil Supplies, Madras, has agreed to allow the import into Mysore of 464 tons of Madras rice from the Godavari, Krishna and Tanjore Districts in exchange for an equivalent quantity of ragi and rice to be allowed to Gudalur, Nilgiris and Hosur. The whole quantity has been arranged to be imported through merchants and Co-operative Societies.

C. S. BALASUNDARAM IYER,
Chief Secretary to Government.